

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 01110 180457Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-10
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R 171420Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3329
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USEEC

USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, AG, DA, GW, SW
SUBJ: SWEDEN MAKES FURTHER PREPARATIONS TO IMPORT NATURAL GAS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. SUMMARY: SWEDEN CONTINUES ITS SEARCH FOR ENERGY SOURCES
WITH LNG FROM ALGERIA AND NIGERIA UNDER CONSIDERATION. END
SUMMARY.

2. IN MARCH 15 THE STOCKHOLM PRESS REPORTED THAT SWEDEGAS
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AB EXPECTS NEXT AUTUMN TO CONCLUDE A CONTRACT WITH THE ALGERIAN
GOVERNMENT-OWNED COMPANY SONATRACH PROVIDING FOR THE SUPPLY OF
TWO BILLION CUBIC METERS OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS ANNUALLY.
DELIVERIES MIGHT BEGIN IN 1984. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT
SWEDEGAS HAS COMPLETED PREPARATIONS FOR SIGNING A CONTRACT
WITH WEST GERMAN RUHRGAS PROVIDING FOR DELIVERIES OF 1.2
BILLION CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS YEARLY. THIS CONTRACT

WILL NOT BECOME VALID UNTIL THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A COMMITMENT TO HELP FINANCE THE LAYING OF A PIPELINE ACROSS DENMARK FROM THE GERMAN-DANISH BORDER.

3. ACCORDING TO THE STOCKHOLM PRESS, THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE DEAL WITH RUHRGAS IS CONTINGENT UPON THE ATTITUDE OF DENMARK, WHICH MAY NOT AGREE TO HAVING A PIPELINE LAID ACROSS ITS TERRITORY FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SUPPLYING SWEDEN. IN ANY EVENT, NEGOTIATIONS WITH DENMARK ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROTRACTED, AND A DANISH DECISION CANNOT BE EXPECTED BEFORE THE SPRING OF 1979.

4. SWEDEGAS WAS FOUNDED IN THE SPRING OF 1976. OWNERSHIP IN THE COMPANY IS SHARED BETWEEN THE SWEDISH STATE POWER ADMINISTRATION, WHICH OWNS 51 PERCENT OF ITS CAPITAL STOCK, AND SVENSKA GASFORENINGENS SERVICE AB (SGFS), WHICH REPRESENTS VARIOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INTERESTS. THE PRINCIPAL AIMS OF SWEDEGAS ARE TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SPHERE OF NATURAL GAS AND RELATED FIELDS, AND TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS AND CONSUMERS.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: A MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBASSY THAT SWEDEGAS AND SONATRACH HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT LNG DELIVERIES AND PROBABLY WOULD NOT REACH AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THE FALL. MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE, NOT LEAST, CONSTRUCTION OF DISCHARGING FACILITIES IN SWEDEN.

6. A DANISH PIPELINE, ESSENTIALLY FOR NORWEGIAN-OWNED NORTH SEA GAS, HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FOR MONTHS BUT INCONCLUSIVELY. THE DANES ARE RETICENT, HE SAID.

7. ANOTHER EVENT WHICH BEARS ON SWEDEN'S FUTURE ENERGY SUPPLY, IS THE POSSIBLE IMPORTATION OF NIGERIAN LNG, IF AND WHEN LNG FACILITIES ARE CONSTRUCTED IN NIGERIA. THE NIGERIAN OIL MINISTER WILL VISIT SWEDEN IN APRIL FOR DISCUSSIONS REGARDING LNG AND OIL AND CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN NIGERIA WHERE SWEDEN HAS BID SUCCESSFULLY, OR WOULD HOPE TO BID. (WE RECALL SWEDISH ENERGY MINISTER OLOF JOHANSSON'S VISIT TO NIGERIA IN AUGUST 1977.)

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PERRY

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NNN

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